

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as suggested in the office action.

Claims 1-39 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 6-11, 16, 19, 21, 26-27, 29, 31-34 and 36-37 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-39 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. These amendments are believed to have overcome all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112 set forth in the office action.

For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed:

- Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-14, 16-17 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lorenzana (U.S. Patent No. 5,195,463);
- Claims 4-5, 8-10, 18, 20, and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorenzana;
- Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorenzana in view of Jones (U.S. Patent 2,715,386);
- Claims 4-5, 18, 20, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorenzana in view of Forjohn (U.S. Patent No. 5,743,212); and
- Claims 15, 19, 21-30 and 37-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Lorenzana in view of Forjohn.

To the extent any of these rejections might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Examiner Hayes is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the personal interview conducted January 17, 2005. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, all pending claims and all prior art references of record were discussed. A commercial product embodying an aspect of the invention was shown. Examiner Hayes agreed dependent claim 9 contains patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 to include limitations recited in claim 9 as well as intervening claims 6 and 8.

Each of amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 recites "a sleeve configured to receive a mounting post, wherein a first end of the sleeve is connected to a bottom surface of the coupling portion and a second end of the sleeve is configured to touch a surface on which the support portion rests." Since none of the prior art of records suggests or teaches this limitation, claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 are believed to be allowable. At least due to their dependencies to an allowable independent claim, dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, 22-30 and 32-39 are also believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant believes all rejections have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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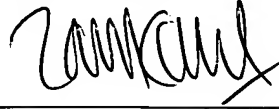
Attorney's Docket No.: DSY-107
Page 13

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Respectfully submitted,

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